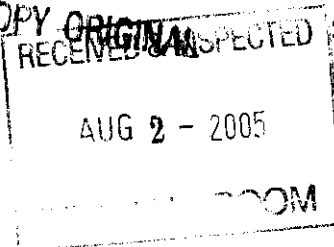


DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL 27 July 2005



Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
9300 East Hampton Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Re: Commission's Cable Horizontal & Vertical Ownership Limits
MM Docket No. 92-264

Honorable Commissioners:

Do not allow giant cable companies to grow larger. Further consolidation in the cable industry is a clear violation of horizontal ownership rules--rules that must be re-established in order to serve the public interest.

Though consumers have more channels available than ever before, their distribution is controlled by a handful of giant corporations. Consumers are therefore forced to buy channels we don't want because cable operators bundle them together--and the quality of my former cable company's customer service clearly reflects the fact that cable television is not a competitive market.

If Comcast and Time Warner are allowed to merge with Adelphia, the two companies will control nearly 50 percent of the national market. This monopolistic level of concentration in the cable industry will only lead to higher consumer rates and lower quality service.

Since passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the "deregulation" of cable, consumers rates have gone up an average of 59 percent. For me and for many other Americans, the cost of cable modem service is out of reach.

Meanwhile, cable companies have become less responsive to the needs and requirements of communities. The quality of public accountability in local franchise agreements has declined, as big companies leverage their power to squeeze local governments.

The last thing America needs is to reward the anti-competitive actions of cable giants by permitting greater consolidation in ownership, reducing competition, and encouraging more of the same.

Sincerely,

Maureen Gaffney
22 Fernwood Drive
Guilford CT 06437

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